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MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1909.

An Official Who Can Be Spared.

When the government experts, after an investigation of several mysterious deaths, made a report showing that the product furnished the 50,000 gas consumers of Washington contained a large proportion of deadly carbon monoxide, the Washington Gaslight Company was silent. Not a word did it utter in its own defense. Even its newspaper organ, the Washington Post, was silent. Apparently the company treated the damaging exposure with indifference and contempt. It vouchsafed no answer to the terrific arraignment virtually charging it with imperiling the lives of its patrons.

But, after a lapse of some days, this ominous, not to say incriminating, silence was broken. The United States inspector of gas and meters, one E. G. Runyan, suddenly burst into the limelight and ended the suspense. In an illuminating statement he told us all about water gas and its use. He assured us that, properly handled as to appliances, there was really no more danger in it, despite the deadly carbon monoxide it contained, than in coal gas, and clearly and cleverly sought to quiet public fears and minimize the importance of the government exposure.

As a special plea for the gas company, the monopoly's attorney could not have said or done the thing better himself.

Before the House Committee on District Affairs, on Saturday, this same United States inspector of gas and meters—he draws $2,000 a year, by the way, out of the District's exchequer—admitted that he knew all along that the Washington Gaslight Company was manufacturing and distributing water gas. Moreover, he had discovered by investigation on his own part months ago that the product contained a large percentage of carbon monoxide—enough to endanger life unless carefully handled. Did he report his discovery to the District Commissioners? Not a bit of it. Did he warn the public and urge caution as to fixtures and appliances? No. That was none of his business. It was not categorically set down as part of his duties to impart such knowledge to his superiors—hence, he kept it to himself. The protection of human life was not in his hands. He did feel called upon subsequently to depart from his official routine far enough to issue the illuminating statement in defense of the Washington Gaslight Company to which we have referred, but that, you can see at once, was quite a different proposition.

A fair measurement of E. G. Runyan, United States inspector of gas and meters, is thus furnished by himself. We let it stand as made first hand. Any deduction or comment, if put in words fitting the case, would only tend to jar the susceptibilities of the reader.

But we do venture to express the belief that the District Commissioners already see the wisdom and propriety of at once separating this strangely constituted official from the District pay-roll. To deny the whole of his future services to the Washington Gaslight Company, into whose equation he seems to fit so perfectly, would be a shame—a downright shame.

Experience is the best teacher, especially in the school of adversity.

Our Naval Programme.

The action of Congress during the past few years appears to commit the legislative branch to a programme of naval increase which adds two battle ships a year to the fleet, together with a proportionate number of torpedo-boat destroyers, submarines, and colliers. This programme is arrived at by the simple process of splitting in two the recommendations of the general board of the navy, a process which suggested to Mr. Sherley, of Kentucky, the witty inquiry whether the judgment of the House Naval Committee was half as wise as that of the general board, or twice as wise. In the natural course of events we may assume that the general board has acquired the habit of asking for twice as much as it expects to get, and the Naval Committee generally responds by cutting the estimates in two and then unctuously ascribing to itself the virtue of saving the Treasury from the raids of an overreaching naval establishment.

It will be remembered that the two battle ships of the 20,000-ton type were authorized at the first session of this Congress. Two more battle ships are authorized in the pending naval bill, but these are of 26,000 tons each, and are to cost $10,250,000 each. A very brief arithmetical calculation will show that the newest battle ships will add to our fleet a tonnage equivalent to that of four battle ships of the 13,000-ton type, more than the equivalent of that of three battle ships of the 16,000-ton type, and almost the equivalent of two 20,000-ton battleships and one 13,000-ton battle ship. So that when Congress authorizes two battle ships of the larger size it comes within measurable distance of the four battle ships a year programme, especially when it is recalled that the general board of the navy asked for four 20,000-ton battle ships, or 80,000 tons, and actually will get two 26,000-ton ships, or 52,000 tons altogether. And as to expense, the two ships authorized this year are much more costly than those authorized last year. In other words, although the naval programme calls for the addition of but two battle ships yearly to the fleet, it is an increasingly expensive programme, because the new ships are larger and costlier. Two 30,000-ton ships, when the time comes to build them, will be the equivalent in cost and tonnage of three of the leviathans now undergoing construction in our navy yards.

So there is always a way of increasing naval construction and naval expenditure. If it cannot be done by getting as many ships as you want, it may be accomplished by increasing the size and supposed efficiency of the ships Congress appears willing to authorize. Just at present, two is the magic figure, below which lies disaster to the country, and above which threatens the bankruptcy of the Treasury. It is a happy medium, but, as we have tried to show, the general board seems to be entitled to laugh last.

The Congressional Record is having the time of its life side-stepping that yellow feeling just now.

Government Telegraph in Philippines.

The War Department will turn over to the civil government in the Philippine Islands next October the telegraph and cable lines in that insular possession. The transaction possesses an element of interest to which Congress may very profitably direct its inquiry. The estimates from the War Department contain an item which shows that the War Department is still to pay telegraph and cable tolls. No consideration was named in the transfer of the valuable possession from the military control to the civil authorities in the Philippines, although the lines were constructed originally by Signal Corps men, who have been since used in their operation and maintenance, and a cable steamer has been and will continue to be employed in the repair of the underwater lines of communication.

The War Department has paid out of its appropriations from year to year for the construction and maintenance of this telegraph and cable system, and it is now to abandon the lines, still using them constantly in the transaction of military business at such cost in the way of tolls for messages as may be imposed, presumably without any question from the War Department. This would appear to be a subject into which careful inquiry might be made by Congress, if for no other reason than to make known to the public the circumstances which led to this transfer under terms so favorable to the civil government of the Philippine Islands. The transaction must stand as a charge of quite respectable proportions against the army appropriations. There would appear to be every reason why in consideration of the useful and profitable acquisition on the part of the Philippine government the War Department should derive some benefit as a donor under conditions which require of the army such an outlay in the way of money, labor, and skill in the process of protection and maintenance.

Some of the papers in the Old Volunteer State predict a curfew law next. We do not think it is as bad as that. Tennessee should cheer up.

The Conservation Commission.

Conservation of natural resources by the conscious and concerted action of national and State authorities, probably the most brilliant piece of constructive statesmanship initiated by the Roosevelt administration, is knocking at the doors of Congress for official recognition. The President asks that the Conservation Commission be legalized, and that a fund be provided for its maintenance and the continuance of its work, hitherto conducted at private expense. The sum needed is $50,000, less than one-tenth the amount added to the national expenditure by the private pension bills enacted at the first session of this Congress as a perquisite of membership in either House. Let the thoughtful citizen judge whether the Roosevelt policy of conservation is less worthy of consideration and of a moderate tax on the public Treasury than the Congressional policy of grinding out private pension bills to help out the folks in "my district." The one is a national policy and the other parochial, and the difference between the two illustrates the diametrically opposite angles of the Executive and the Congressional viewpoints.

In his message of transmittal, Mr. Roosevelt refers to the Conservation Commission's report as "in a peculiar sense representative of the whole nation and all its parts." If this is true, will it not be singular if Congress, supposed to be similarly representative of the whole nation and all its parts, should be unresponsive to the eloquent appeal of the Chief Executive in behalf of a fundamental task upon which he believes the nation should at once enter, and enter with the guidance and assistance of the commission that has formulated in detail the policy of conservation? In no way, as the President says, will the appropriation of so small a sum prove of such benefit to the nation as by its employment in elaborating means for the development and preservation of our material resources in mine and forest, in soil and waterways. And no act would be more creditable to this expiring Congress than that of giving form and permanence to the policy of national conservation of those material elements which are the foundation of national greatness.

"The President is often quite right," says the Chattanooga Times. That seems, after all, to be something of a popular verdict.

Those convicted "night riders" down in Tennessee are probably intensely interested in the trials of Col. Cooper and his son Robin for the murder of ex-Senator Carmack.

Tennessee on the wagon? Florida is probably lonesome, but satisfied.

The "solid South" appears to like Mr. Taft immensely. And yet, we venture the opinion that it will vote its Democracy straight as a string next time.

We note in the Buffalo News that Messrs. Drinkwater and Swim, of that city, are on the water wagon. That is all right. They evidently appreciate the doctrine of the eternal fitness of things.

Mr. Lilley may be in doubt as to just how he was separated from his Congressional job, but he is separated, all right enough.

The Navy Poster.

The Navy Department is negotiating with artists with whom originate the highly colored lithographs used in advertising for naval recruits for a design which shall be suitable for dead-wall pictorial solicitation of enlistments in the naval service. About ten proposals have been received accompanied by twice that number of sketches. It is observed that most of the designs submitted show marked appreciation on the part of the artists of the spectacular element represented in the alluring prospect that an enlistment in the navy affords unequaled opportunities to visit foreign parts. It is thus that many of the competitive designs make a great deal of the bluejacket enjoying jinrikisha rides in Japan, cigarette smoking in Spain, gondolaing in Venice, and meditation among the pyramids of Egypt. Some of the designs show the enlisted man engaged in a refreshing draught of cooling and, presumably, non-exhilarating beverages amidst tropical verdure. All of the scenes are, it is agreeable to state, regarded with no particular favor by the naval authorities, who appreciate that the life of the bluejacket is not one round of sight-seeing and relaxation in strange places. It has a very serious side to it, that of preparation for war, which does not come about by the pursuit of pleasure in foreign ports.

Some criticism has been directed in Congress against the Navy Department because its highly colored posters soliciting enlistments in the navy have made altogether too much of what might be called the frivolous side of the bluejacket's existence, and one Congressman has stated that this is a misrepresentation calculated to deceive thoughtless youth, who come, after enlistment, to a realization of the seriousness of the occupation; and if this is the case, the offense is no less because the misrepresentation is decorative. It would be well if the Navy Department, therefore, abandoned its highly ornate pictures, which may give the public the impression that the bluejacket's life is a giddy whirl of excursion, and in the selection of a recruiting picture poster for dead-wall advertising use a subject more faithful to the actual circumstances, which it could be made to be without any sacrifice to the allurement furnished by the lithographic art.

"Mr. Foraker grows tiresome," says the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot. Alas, the setting sun!

Thornton Jenkins Hains says he will continue to carry his gun. Of course. Did anybody doubt it?

Mr. Hobson again arises to remark—but then, you know what he rises to remark; he always does.

"Why do people eat 'possum?" inquires the Macon Telegraph. Also: What is a Democrat?

"Is the devil immoral?" asks the Memphis Commercial-Appeal. Not if you take his word for it.

Dr. Wiley's crusade against the quality of booze sold in Washington ought to be easily sustained by the testimony of the fellows called to the witness stand early next morning.

It seems that we are threatened with an orange war. Wouldn't an egg war be glorious?

Lord Rosebery is lecturing in England on the "Criminality of waste." Sounds like the topic of a down-and-out Congressman.

It ought to jar Mr. Willett somewhat, it seems, to have Congress hand him a lemon even sourer than the one it has been wont to hand the President on occasion.

"What shall we do with our ex-Presidents?" is the one question that Venezuela doesn't want to worry about nowadays.

"A guilty conscience recognizes itself off-hand," says the Birmingham Age-Herald. But it frequently keeps very quiet about it.

An Eskimo threatens to discover the north pole. It may be that he has known just where it was all the time, however.

"President Roosevelt is a past master in the art of advertising," says a contemporary. Well?

Some of the St. Louis papers are saying ugly things about Mr. Senator Stone. The Senator, however, wears the smile that apparently won't come off.

Why Cleveland Stayed at Home.

The story of why Grover Cleveland did not go to war is told by George F. Parker, in McClure's Magazine. Mr. Cleveland, who had been criticised for his order for the return of the battle flags taken during the civil war, said to Mr. Parker:

"See how I am misjudged. It is charged in the press that I had no sympathy with the Union armies. When the war came there were three men of fighting age in our family. We were poor, and mother and sisters depended on us for support. We held a family council and decided that two of us should enlist in the Union army, and the third stay home for the support of the family. We decided it by drawing cuts. The two long and one short pieces of paper were put by mother in the leaves of the old family Bible. She held it while we drew. My two brothers drew the long slips, and at once enlisted, and I abided my duty to the helpless women. Later on I was drafted and borrowed $1,000 to hire a substitute, and it took years of hard work to repay that loan. So, of three men of fighting age, our family furnished three recruits for the Union army, and I would have been a monster if I had had no sympathy with that cause for which my brothers were fighting, and for which I had sacrificed."

An African in the Woodpile?

From the Indianapolis News.

Twenty thousand dollars to investigate Liberia? And after we have investigated Liberia, what then?

Needed Legislation.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

While the New York legislature is in session it might be wise to introduce a law against murder.

Material in Plenty.

From the Chicago News.

Literary Senators, like Beveridge and Lodge, have a great chance to get plots for detective stories.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

AN OLD STORY.

One more unfortunate,
Frenzied his look,
Rashly importunate,
After a cook.

Bows down with deference,
So does his wife.
Asks for no reference;
Not on your life.

Pays a large salary,
Offers her treats.
Nix on the gallery—
Orchestra seats.

Pets her and pampers her,
Handles with care.
Never once hampers her;
Never would dare.

Stands all her flightiness,
But one sad day
Sees her high mightiness
Flutter away.

Popular There.

"Is he a man of any great consequence?"

"Well, yes; to himself."

Settling Down.

"I'm getting too old and feeble to be a joke," declared the elderly witticism.

"Well?"

"I think I'll stop dyeing my whiskers, and be an anecdote."

In New York.

"All our tables are engaged two years in advance."

"That's all right. I have sub-leased a table, and here are the documents. Now can I get an option on a steak, with trimmings to match?"

Be Civil.

Do not ignore convention's laws,
Or growl and chafe
At everything at home because
You know it's safe.

Talking Shop.

"Is it true that poets often go hungry?"

"I wouldn't wonder. But the verse writers make a pretty good living."

The Quarrel.

"Last night we parted forever."

"Then I suppose Ferdy will not call to-night?"

"No; but he'll spend the evening behind a tree across the street."

Some Signs.

"Did you find an oyster in that stew?"

"No; but I found indications which would lead me to believe that an oyster had been dragged through it at a moderate rate of speed."

"DRY" LAW NOT NEEDED HERE.

Prohibition in Washington Would Be Only a Farce and Humbug.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin.

The vote of 11 to 2 by which a committee of the House of Representatives has just rejected a measure absolutely prohibiting the sale of all alcoholic beverages in the District of Columbia is an emphatic rebuff to the forces which have persistently urged this legislation.

The Federal district now has a law under which the multiplication of saloons has been checked by fairly high licenses, while the restrictive features of this statute, if honestly enforced, should insure order and decency in places of public refreshment. If it is desirable to place the license fees still higher, thus cutting down the number of open bars, and making it easier to exercise more vigilant supervision over them, such action would be entirely legitimate.

The imposition of a severe curb on the liquor traffic, however, is essentially different from an attempt to apply iron-clad prohibition to the city of Washington and its environs. The people there have made no demand for such drastic measures, practically all the pressure in their behalf having come from outside sources. Under such conditions prohibitory enactments would be altogether likely to prove a farce and a humbug.

DEMOCRATS AND TARIFF.

Will the Opportunity Pass for Constructive Statesmanship?

From the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

All tariff legislation in many years has revealed a protective sentiment in spots within the Democratic party. The anxiety of the Louisiana Senators on behalf of the home sugar growers, for instance, scotched the Democratic bill of 1894. Probably that sentiment is stronger and more widely distributed through the party to-day than ever before. It is strong enough to make it doubtful whether the party, if it had control of legislation, could really enact a low tariff bill. Moreover, if recent Washington correspondence is to be credited, the minority framers are unsettled or disagreed upon various broad principles of tariff legislation, like the question of maximum and minimum duties, continued reciprocity with Cuba, and free trade with the Philippines.

It will be unfortunate if the Democrats in Congress botch this chance to offer the country a sound, harmonious, statesmanlike bill, intelligently formulating the tariff beliefs of their party. It is true that such a bill, at best, would not be conclusive. The pressure of the interests would not be brought to bear upon the making of a measure which was never to be enacted, and a sense of freedom from consequences is necessarily reflected in a minority bill. Yet when this is said, it still remains true that the Democratic party is confronted by a splendid opportunity for large constructive statesmanship, a quality in which the opposition is regularly charged with deficiency. A strongly and judicious tariff bill, stanchly built up on the principles it has so long professed, would do more to enhance the prestige of the Democratic party in the eyes of the country than anything else could.

Chinese Development.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Now that the Chinese government is planning for the construction of long lines of railway with a view to the better development of the vast natural resources of the empire, the yellow peril is taking on an aspect of commercial encroachment. With vast beds of untouched ores and coal and no end of cheap labor, when the Chinese millions shall become thoroughly awake to their advantages and opportunities the Aryans will indeed have to look to their laurels.

Cuba's National Game.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch.

One of the early acts of the new Cuban congress is outlined to be a declaration that cock fighting is the national sport. By this means it may be hoped to avert the absorption of that isle into the strenuosities of our baseball fever.

A GHOST AND A DREAM.

Rain will fall on the fading flowers,
Winds will blow through the dripping tree,
When Fall leads in her tattered Hours
With Death to keep them company.

All night long in the weeping weather,
All night long in the garden gray,
A ghost and a dream will talk together,
And sad are the things they have to say.

Old sad things of the bough that's broken;
Heart-break things of the leaf that's dead;
Old sad things no tongue hath spoken;
Sorrowful things no man hath said.

—Madison Cawein, in Harper's Magazine.

WASHINGTON CHAT.

By THE SPECTATOR.

It has been given out almost officially that Mr. Wilson will remain at the head of the Department of Agriculture as long as he lives. To permit this canny Scotchman to resign a position he has so worthily filled would not be a popular move with the country, certainly not with the agricultural element, who have for the last forty years looked upon him as their advocate and adviser, for he became that immediately upon his election to Congress in 1872, and for the past twelve years, as Secretary of Agriculture, he has been a friend and brother to the farmer, and, since it would be unwise to offend "the backbone of the country," as the agriculturists are sometimes called, it is safe to predict that Mr. Wilson will keep his portfolio until he elects to resign it. How long that will be one cannot predict, for at the age of seventy-four he is as hale and hearty with as great a power of endurance as any man in public life in Washington. From the time he first came to Congress, Mr. Wilson has been a picturesque figure at the Capital. He is tall, slender, rugged in appearance, with a shock of gray hair and gray beard, and an accent that recalls his birthplace, Ayrshire, which nearly sixty years' residence in this country has failed to efface. His most cherished title is that of farmer, and, while one does not connect knighthood with the wielder of a hoe, there is to Mr. Wilson's credit an act as knightly and heroic as ever King Arthur or any of his followers performed.

When Gen. Grant was dying at Mount McGregor a bill was introduced in the Forty-eighth Congress to restore him to the rank of general, an honor he earnestly coveted and one that would bring happiness to him in his last hours. The House was Democratic. Mr. Carlisle was Speaker, and to prevent consideration of the bill its opponents resorted to filibustering. Wilson held his seat provisionally. It was contested by Benjamin Frederick, a Democrat. As is well known, a contested election has the right of way in Congress, thus the Wilson-Frederick contest was seized upon by the antagonists of the Grant bill, and as eager as were the backers of the measure to give back to the dying soldier his coveted military rank, they were not willing to sacrifice their colleague to gain that end, and so they were compelled to resort to filibustering to prevent the consideration of the election case, which was exactly what its enemies wanted, for, unless immediate action could be taken upon it the Grant bill would be made ineffectual by his death.

It excites one's admiration to recall Mr. Wilson's action at that time. Having gained the Speaker's recognition he demanded to know whether the question of his election stood in the way of the nation's exhibition of common gratitude to its preserver. "Could it be possible," he asked, "that a contested election case was to be the bowlder on which consideration of so palpable an act of justice was to split? If this is the case," he concluded, "as it unquestionably appears to be, the obstacle is easily removed. Mr. Speaker, I hereby resign my seat in this House to my contestant, Mr. Frederick." Pandemonium followed the announcement. The House rang with cheers, every man in the body joined in the applause. The anti-Grant men were stupefied. They were unprepared for such noble renunciation, such self-abnegation. The Grant bill passed the House. It was rushed to the Senate and all business suspended until it passed that body. In less than an hour after James Wilson had sacrificed his political position by surrendering his seat in the House, the bill was signed by the President, and one more loving tribute of a grateful country was laid on the death bed of the great general, laid there by the strong and faithful hand, the hand of a farmer.

Mr. Wilson is the real father of the Department of Agriculture, for at the very beginning of his Congressional career he urged the erection of the Bureau of Agriculture, and its removal from the Interior Department into a separate department with a Cabinet officer at its head. Little did he foresee that he would one day be at the head of the department he helped to originate, but since that time he has been working for "the man with his coat off," as he puts it, and that he has worked well the growth of his department shows. His office is no sinecure. He passes the best part of every day there, and he is the only Cabinet officer who is hardly ever seen at social functions, but he is always at home to his friends in his office, and there is no cooling of heels in his ante-chamber for the old farmers who come up to applaud, criticise, or suggest. One reason for his success is the easy intimacy that he has established "with the men with their coats off." He is "one of them." His good-natured face invokes sympathy and confidence, and he has the faculty of getting the very best out of people.

Speaking of the approachableness of the Secretary, a Western farmer had a project which he wished the department to take up. He had had some correspondence concerning the matter, but felt that if he could talk it over face to face with the Secretary, it would be sure to go through. He had, however, some qualms about appearing before so august a personage, but he came to Washington to beard the lion in his den. He wandered aimlessly through the corridors of the building for some time, and coming across a pleasant-faced, white-haired old man, rugged in appearance, and stooped in figure, he confided to him the fact that he wished to see the Secretary.

"Come right in," said the new-found friend.

"Come in and sit down," leading him through an open door into a pleasant office room.

"What did you want to see the Secretary about?"

Thus invited the gentleman from the West proceeded to unfold his plan, much to the interest of his hearer, who interrupted him now and then with intelligent and well-put questions, and when he finished said with some enthusiasm:

"Why, I believe that is just the thing the department has been looking for. I am sure it could not do better than take up your idea."

"Do you think," asked the man, a little tremulously, "I could talk it over with the Secretary?" The gray-bearded man threw himself back in his chair and gave a hearty laugh.

"Why, I am the Secretary," he said, and so another devoted friend and loyal supporter was added to his list.

Bottled-up Grievances.

From the New York Tribune.

Undoubtedly much of the resentment expressed at the President's remarks on the subject of the Secret Service was an accumulation of long standing. There were many Representatives who had chafed under political pressure brought to bear by the Executive, but who had had no chance to liberate their feelings until the Secret Service message offered a plausible pretext for indignation. The concern of the House for its own dignity would not alone have accounted for the eagerness of so large a majority to "rebuke" the President. The "rebuke" covered a multitude of other complaints which could not have been vented on their own merits.

Kingly Precedent.

From the Philadelphia North American.

King Alfonso wants to learn to fly. It isn't a new thing for kings of Spain to have to.

ROOSEVELT POLICIES.

From the President's message transmitting the report of the conservation commission.

This administration has achieved some things; it has sought, but has not been able, to achieve others; it has doubtless made mistakes, but all it has done or attempted has been in the single, consistent effort to secure and enlarge the rights and opportunities of the men and women of the United States. We are trying to conserve what is good in our social system, and we are striving toward this end when we endeavor to do away with what is bad. Success may be made too hard for some if it is made too easy for others. The rewards of common industry and thrift may be too small if the rewards for other, and, on the whole, less valuable, qualities are made too large, and especially if the rewards for qualities which are really, from the public standpoint, undesirable are permitted to become too large. Our aim is so far as possible to provide such conditions that there shall be equality of opportunity where there is equality of energy, fidelity, and intelligence; when there is a reasonable equality of opportunity the distribution of rewards will take care of itself.

The unchecked existence of monopoly is incompatible with equality or opportunity. The reason for the exercise of government control over great monopolies is to equalize opportunity. We are fighting against privilege. It was made unlawful for corporations to contribute money for election expenses in order to abridge the power of special privilege at the polls. Railroad rate control is an attempt to secure an equality of opportunity for all men affected by rail transportation—and that means all of us. The great anthracite coal strike was settled and the pressing danger of a coal famine averted because we recognized that the control of a public necessity involves a duty to the people, and that public intervention in the affairs of a public service corporation is neither to be resented as usurpation nor permitted as a privilege by the corporations, but, on the contrary, to be accepted as a duty and exercised as a right by the government in the interest of all the people. The efficiency of the army and the navy has been increased so that our people may follow in peace the great work of making this country a better place for Americans to live in, and our navy was sent around the world for the same ultimate purpose. All the acts taken by the government during the last seven years, and all the policies now being pursued by the government, fit in as parts of a consistent whole.

Our public land policy has for its aim the use of the public land so that it will promote local development by the settlement of home-makers. The policy we champion is to serve all the people legitimately and openly, instead of permitting the lands to be converted, illegitimately and under cover, to the private benefit of a few. Our forest policy was established so that we might use the public forests for the permanent public good, instead of merely for temporary private gain. The reclamation act, under which the desert parts of the public domain are converted to higher uses for the general benefit, was passed so that more Americans might have homes on the land.

These policies were enacted into law and have justified their enactment. Others have failed, so far, to reach the point of action. Among such is the attempt to secure public control of the open range, and thus to convert its benefits to the use of the small man, who is the home-maker, instead of allowing it to be controlled by a few great cattle and sheep owners.

The enactment of a pure food law was a recognition of the fact that the public welfare outweighs the right to private gain, and that no man may poison the people for his private profit. The employers' liability bill recognized the controlling fact that while the employer usually has at stake no more than his profit, the stake of the employe is a living for himself and his family.

We are building the Panama Canal, and this means that we are engaged in the giant engineering feat of all time. We are striving to add in all ways to the habitability and beauty of our country. We are striving to hold in the public hands the remaining supply and unappropriated coal for the protection and benefit of all the people. We have taken the first steps toward the conservation of our natural resources and the betterment of country life and the improvement of our waterways. We stand for the right of every child to a childhood free from grinding toil and to an education; for the civic responsibility and decency of every citizen; for prudent foresight in public matters, and for fair play in every relation of our national and economic life. In international matters we apply a system of diplomacy which puts the obligations of international morality on a level with those that govern the actions of an honest gentleman in dealing with his fellow-men. Within our own border, we stand for truth and honesty in public and in private life, and we war sternly against wrongdoers of every grade. All these efforts are integral parts of the same attempt—the attempt to enthrone justice and righteousness, to secure freedom of opportunity to all of our citizens, now and hereafter, and to set the ultimate interest of all of us above the temporary interest of any individual, class, or group.

Old-fashioned Womanhood.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The old-fashioned woman looked well to the ways of her household. She was not particularly ambitious for a career or a calling. She did not know that she was down-trodden, or realize her ignominious servitude to a false assumption of superiority on the part of the unfair sex. She found the homage and chivalry of mankind delightful, and took it at its face value. Nor did she trouble herself about the potential reconstruction of the family on a new basis of relationship. She was not struggling to be recognized as man's equal, for she found it tacitly admitted on all sides that she was man's superior. She felt a deep and rational delight in various concerns and enterprises, but these were not of such a nature as to call for the sacrifice of her first and nearest interests, which were material and domestic.

Harvard's Government.

From the Boston Transcript.

Harvard government is that of a limited monarchy, but with the right type of monarch the administration can be made to veer pretty close to the status of a benevolent despotism. To say that it has veered in this direction during the last two or three decades is the highest tribute one may pay to the consummate skill and personal power of President Eliot. But this very development, this centralization of power, influence, and responsibility which the retiring Nestor among college presidents has brought into being will serve to make his mantle fall heavily upon him who must now take it up. To bear it as it has been borne will prove no easy task.

Must Be Mixed with Lemon.

From the Knoxville Journal and Tribune.

When it is known that this country consumes as much as 7,000,000,000 pounds of sugar in a year, one wonders why there are not more sweet-tempered ones than there are.

Political Union.

From the New York World.

The prospective wedding of a suffragette bride and a bridegroom pledged to woman suffrage will be a union of two hearts that vote as one.

AT THE HOTELS.

"For nearly nine years Australia's Parliament has been endeavoring to decide upon its permanent home," said George B. Blaisdell, of Melbourne, Australia, at the New Willard last night.

"Both houses of the legislature have now agreed upon what is known as the Yass-Canberra site," continued the antipodean. "The housing of the national Parliament was regarded as one of the first duties of the legislators, and the long wrangle has evoked much criticism. But if the choice now made is adhered to Australia will not have done so badly. The United States was fifteen years settling down at Washington, and Canada hesitated for ten years before asking Queen Victoria to settle the problem for them, which she did by deciding in favor of Ottawa.

"To leave behind two splendid young cities, like Sydney and Melbourne, each with a population of over half a million, and build an artificial city hundreds of miles inland appears on first thought a strange proposition. For Australia has literally decided on a capital in the bush. For political purposes an isolated collection of great buildings and residences will be erected, which would otherwise never have been called into existence. Yass-Canberra country lies 193 miles to the southwest of Sydney and 395 miles from Melbourne. Commonwealth politicians will need to be men of leisure, for $3,000 a year, the salary paid, will not satisfy the sort of men wanted in an ambitious young country's parliament.

"The country chosen is high, undulating, and picturesque," added Mr. Blaisdell. "Its altitude of between 2,000 and 3,000 feet gives it a cool, bracing climate, and its frontage to the noble Murrumbidgee River, one of the most valuable of Australian waterways, and its proximity to the range of mountains bearing the same characteristic native name, touch it with grandeur. Some years will be occupied in the erection of the Parliament building and the public offices and residences for members and officials."

M. Rosmer, of London, England, a Ben Greet player, is at the Ebbitt. Speaking of American audiences he said they were "enterprising and not exactly discriminating." He added: "Americans are faddish. When they see a play which they like they play it to death. They are more satisfactory to the players than the stolid English audiences, which are hard to move to anything like enthusiasm.

"Socialism in England is growing every day, and the powers that be are afraid of the movement and are doing everything to stop it. There are millions of unemployed in England, and they have been demanding relief legislation through Parliament, but without success."

Discussing the American divorce evil, Dr. Charles L. Wood, of Boston, Mass., who is at the Raleigh, said last night: "The greatest of modern problems is the divorce evil. The instability of American family life is so marked that this country, now leads the world in that particular. There are more divorces here than in all the other Christian countries put together. We are now facing an evil such as ancient Rome faced and fell before, although her legislation is the basis of modern law and her mentality of such a caliber that the whole world at one time was her slave.

"The schools are not the most precious institutions of this country; neither are the churches. More vitally important than these institutions is the home. The destruction of the home would apparently involve the destruction of present society, and even the instability of the family must produce profound disturbances of the social order. Our concern over government and industry, church, and school should be slight, therefore, compared with our concern over that fundamental institution charged with the task of bringing new individuals into the world, socializing them, and furnishing them with ideals of life.

"In my honest opinion it is no exaggeration to say that the problem now confronting the American family is that of its perpetuity. We are apparently within measurable distance of the time when, if present conditions and tendencies continue, the family as a permanent union between man and wife lasting until death will altogether cease to exist. Divorce is an epidemic in this country, not because of the laxity of our laws, but because of the decay of family life here. The real evil is not divorce, but the falling away of the basic virtues of the home. The amazing feature of the whole business is that there is ample justification for the average divorce. The old story told before the judge of the faithlessness of the wife or husband is only too true."

"Capt. M. T. Moore, of Jefferson City, Mo., eighty-seven years of age, a veteran of the Mexican war and one of the most vigorous and best preserved men of his age in the United States," said John F. Kirkland, of Kansas City, at the National last night, "doesn't think much of the recent feat of President Roosevelt in riding ninety miles without a stop, save to change horses.

"Capt. Moore, as I understand it, has an authenticated record of having covered, between sunrise and sunset, on a single horse, 105 miles. This occurred in 1850 in California, where he had gone to engage in the cattle business after having marched to the City of Mexico with the victorious troops of Gen. Winfield Scott.

"His ride grew out of an emergency in a big deal for cattle in the San Joaquin Valley. To close the deal, in which he and his partner, Capt. Waldo, were vitally interested, it became necessary for him to start from the home ranch on Bear River, near old Fort Johnson, with a large amount of gold dust. He left at sunrise, mounted on an ordinary mustang pony that had never tasted grain, and covered forty miles before he reached the ranch of Gen. Benjamin Lisle, afterward attorney general of Missouri, where he hastily swallowed breakfast and gave his pony water and a quart of barley. Once or twice during the day he stopped to water the pony, but for the most part kept straight ahead, and just at sundown reached the herd and the camp on the San Juan River, at a place known as French Camp. The distance was 105 miles, as the crow flies. Capt. Moore said that had he been provided with a relay of horses, as was President Roosevelt, he could have covered 150 miles between two suns."

Herman N. Bender, of Seattle, Wash., who is interested in the Asiatic export and import trade, and who is at the Arlington, discussing the commercial growth of Japan and the Orient, said last night:

"Recovering from a gigantic war in which the burden, both financial and physical, has been enormous, Japan has at once applied the same vigorous and sensible enthusiasm to restoring her manufacturing and commercial enterprises that has led her to an indisputable victory in the recent debate of arms.

"China's awakening seems to be less the phantasy it has always appeared, and the passing away of both emperor and empress, it is believed, will prove to be the removal of the final shackles which have so securely fettered any general progressive movement in the land of the dragon. An improvement in conditions is being rapidly brought about, and among the world's markets none will be more benefited than the United States."

Terror to the Opposition.

From the Charleston News and Courier.

It is suspected that the President depends largely on Secret Service when he plays tennis.